

# FISCAL NOTE

**Bill #:** SB0383 **Title:** Stipend for speech-language pathologist teachers  
**Primary Sponsor:** Cocchiarella, V **Status:** As Introduced, Revised

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Sponsor signature	Date	David Ewer, Budget Director	Date
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## Fiscal Summary

	<b><u>FY 2006 Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2007 Difference</u></b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
General Fund	(\$69,000)	(\$60,000)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact on General Fund Balance:</b>	(\$69,000)	(\$60,000)

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov. Impact    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 |
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## Fiscal Analysis

### ASSUMPTIONS:

#### **Office of Public Instruction (OPI)**

1. The one-time \$3,000 stipend is provided only to newly-hired full time speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
2. The October 2004 Annual Data Collection (ADC) reported that schools, cooperatives, and state operated programs, had 23 vacancies for speech-language pathologist and audiologist positions in the previous year.
3. Data is not collected on the number of vacant positions that are full time nor are data collected on positions filled by individuals who previously held positions with Montana public schools. Therefore, the annual turn over of full time speech language pathologists and audiologists who would become eligible for the one-time stipend is difficult to project. A rough estimate would be 23 full time positions in the first year and, in subsequent years, 20 positions being filled by full time individuals who had not previously received the one-time stipend. FY 2007 and each subsequent year cost: 20 stipends X \$3,000 = \$60,000.
4. Many speech pathologists have reached, or are nearing eligibility for retirement. It is unknown whether this could result in an increase in future years beyond the 20 stipends generated as a result of the turn over estimated in assumption 2.
5. The schools and the OPI will absorb the costs, using existing budgets and staff, to collect documentation verifying an individual's eligibility for the stipend and dispersing the stipends accordingly.

**Fiscal Note Request SB0383, As Introduced, Revised**  
(continued)

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY 2006 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Personal Services	\$69,000	\$60,000
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$69,000	\$60,000
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>		
General Fund (01)	(\$69,000)	(\$60,000)

TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. We presume that the reference to “funding” on page 1 line 28 means the annual general fund appropriation. If the number of individuals eligible for the stipend in each of the two fiscal years deviates from the estimate, the prorating called for on page 1 line 30 could result in variation in the size of the stipend between fiscal years.
2. “Newly Hired” is defined on Page 1 line 22 as being newly hired by a district, cooperative, or state operated program. The definition could provide an incentive for current employees to change jobs. This could occur in a variety of ways including school systems that have an elementary district and a high school district. In this case, a change in status of the employing district would trigger the payment of the stipend.
3. An appropriation will be needed in HB 2 to fund the stipends created by SB 383.